



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

Region One
490 North Meridian Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501
FAX: 406-257-0349
Ref:DV267-01
December 26, 2001

TO: Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, 59620-1704
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Planning, Prevention & Assistance, PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Permitting Compliance, PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Director's Office – Larry Peterman
Legal Unit

Parks Division – Allan Kuser
Design/Construction – Dick Mayer

Montana Historical Society, SHPO, 225 North Roberts, Veteran's Memorial Building, Helena, 59620-1201

Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Ave., Helena, 59620-1800

Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, 59624

George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, 59624

Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation, PO Box 728, Libby, 59923

Montana State Parks Association, PO Box 699, Billings, 59103

Joe Gutkoski, President, Montana River Action Network, 304 N 18th Ave., Bozeman, 59715

Rep. Verdell Jackson, 555 Wagner Lane, Kalispell, 59901-8079

Rep. Dee Brown, PO Box 444, Hungry Horse, 59919-0444

Rep. Darrel Adams, 155 Eastland Crossroad, Columbia Falls, 59912-9300

Sen. Bob DePratu, PO Box 1217, Whitefish, 59937-1217

Sen. Jerry O'Neil, PO Box 2058, Kalispell, 59903-2058

Flathead County Commissioners, 800 S Main Street, Kalispell, 59901

Flathead County Library, 247 First Avenue E, Kalispell, 59901

Rick Hanners, Hungry Horse News, PO Box 189, Columbia Falls, 59912

Flathead Wildlife, PO Box 4, Kalispell, 59901

Bob Raney, 212 S. 6th, Livingston, 59047

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region One, has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for Pressentine and Kokanee Bend fishing access sites for the purpose of placing barrier rock, fencing, and gates in appropriate locations to prevent motorized access off the designated roads at these sites.

There were no changes to the draft EA; therefore, the draft becomes the final EA. A copy of the Decision Document and Finding of No Significant Impact is enclosed for your information.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Vincent
Regional Supervisor

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Enclosure

**Decision Notice
and
Finding of No Significant Impact
for
Pressentine and Kokanee Bend
Site Protection Project**

Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Region 1
490 N. Meridian
Kalispell, MT 59901

December 20, 2001

Description of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is a site protection project at Pressentine and Kokanee Bend fishing access sites. Fish, Wildlife and Parks has proposed placing barrier rock, fencing, and gates in appropriate locations to prevent motorized access off the designated roads at these sites.

Public Comment: Three individuals submitted comments, two supporting the project and another expressing concerns. Concerns expressed consisted of the following:

1. If these sites are already closed to OHV use, why are the current rules not enforced? The sites are currently closed to off-road OHV use, and these regulations are enforced when personnel are at the site; however, the use is ongoing. Physical barriers will not only limit the off-road use, but will make it clear that this use is not appropriate at this site due to the riparian habitat type and the need to meet best management practices. OHV use is appropriate on trails and other areas designated for their use. FWP will continue to work with organized OHV groups to provide opportunities for recreational OHV use.
2. How will this proposal protect adjacent private forestland surrounding the valley and close to population centers from increasing use? This is outside of the purview of this action.
3. Will private forestlands see increased law enforcement from FWP to help with current and future damage? Again, this is outside of the purview of this action.
4. Continued use by horses, people, and wildlife is allowed. The individual believes his experience shows these users spread more weeds than do vehicles, over a much larger area. While pedestrians and horses can and do spread weeds, vehicles travel much farther and at a greater rate of speed than

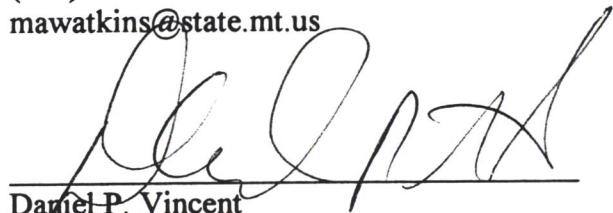
people or horses, and thus can spread weeds farther, faster. In addition, the soil disturbance caused by repeated OHV use is much greater than that caused by wildlife, pedestrian, or equestrian use, thus creating a greater disturbed area vulnerable to weed growth.

Finding of No Significant Impact:

Based on the analysis in the Environmental Assessment (EA), I find Alternative 1, using fencing, barrier rock, and gates to close the sites to off-road vehicle traffic, to be the preferred alternative. I have evaluated the EA and applicable laws, regulations, and policies and have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

The final Environmental Assessment and the FONSI may be viewed at or obtained from Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Region One, 490 N. Meridian, Kalispell, MT 59901. Please direct requests and questions to:

Marty Watkins, Regional Parks Manager
490 N. Meridian
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 751-4573
mawatkins@state.mt.us


Daniel P. Vincent
Regional Supervisor

12/27/01
Date